

## MEMORANDUM

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August 30, 1972

ARMY  
Review  
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MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: R. T. Kennedy *RT*SUBJECT: Highlights of CINCPAC Assessment of the Current  
Campaign Against North Vietnam

At this morning's JCS briefing, the highlights of a recent CINCPAC meeting on the effects of the current campaign against the North were presented. The assessment covered operations taking place between July 25 and August 22. Significant highlights included:

- A major problem in LINE BACKER air operations during the period has been inclement weather. Weather was operational in NVN for less than 30 percent of the time. However, despite the generally poor weather air strikes continued to disrupt the enemy's transportation and supply distribution system.
- Since approximately three-fourths of North Vietnam's major power generating capacity has been rendered inoperative, the system was placed lower on the priority strike list. However, the Viet Tri thermal power plant was targeted and strike results indicated total destruction of the generator hall and severe damage to the boiler house. It is estimated that regeneration of the plant will take from six to 12 months.
- The importance the enemy places on POL resources and facilities has been demonstrated by North Vietnamese POL pipeline construction. Two separate pipelines from the PRC connecting to existing pipeline facilities in NVN have been constructed and are probably operational. In addition, there is a third pipeline under construction which generally parallels the other two recently constructed lines and is rapidly nearing completion. The

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pipeline extends from Dong Dang, on the PRC-NVN border, to just south of Kép where construction to further extend the line continues. It is not known at this time if this line has yet become operational.

- Enemy air defense activity continued to remain heavy throughout all of NVN. SAM activity was especially heavy with over 280 missile firings reported by U.S. aircrews.
- North Vietnam's major deep water ports remain closed as a result of POCKET MONEY operations, and continued mine reseedling was conducted to maintain active minefields.

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